SEVENTH DAY—*Wednesday, 29th October 1931.*

The House re-assembled at 12 NOON.

QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS—(*continued*).

MRS. KAMALAMMA H. DASAPPA and SRIMATI D. SAKAMMA (Special Interest).—

Q.—53. Will the Government be pleased to state :—

(*a*) The number of births in 1930-31 ?

(*b*) The total mortality of children under one year during that year ?

(*c*) The number of mothers who died at child-birth during the year—

(i) in Bangalore and Mysore Cities ;

(ii) in other towns ; and

(iii) in villages ?

SECRETARY TO GOVERNMENT, GENERAL DEPARTMENT.—

A.—53. Complete information is not available for the official year 1930-31. The available information for the year 1930 is furnished below :—

(*a*) No. of Births.—

Bangalore City	....	5,757
Mysore City	....	2,477
Kolar Gold Fields	....	2,969
Other Towns	....	11,676
Villages	....	92,178
Total	....	1,15,057

(*b*) Mortality of children under one year.—

Bangalore City	....	968
Mysore City	....	322
Kolar Gold Fields	....	614
Other Towns	....	1,117
Villages	....	7,789
Total	....	10,810

(*c*) Deaths at child-birth,—

(i) to (iii) Information is not available as deaths among women at child-birth (maternal mortality) are not reported either in the urban or rural returns.

Supplementary Questions and Answers.

Mr. H. C. Dasappa.—

With reference to the answer to question (*c*), may I know if statistics of maternal mortality have not been maintained, and if not whether it is not desirable and necessary to do so ?

First Member of Council.—

Statistics have not been maintained accurately in all places. We shall consider the suggestion concerning the maintenance of the figures hereafter.

Mr. H. C. Dasappa.—

From the figures furnished in the answers, it is seen that the percentage of infant mortality in the Kolar Gold Fields is very much higher than in the cities. May I know the reasons for it ?

Director of Health.—

Infant mortality in industrial centres is generally higher than in other places. Secondly, I cannot say that figures concerning births and deaths are correctly maintained in the cities, while those in the Gold Fields are more reliable.

Mr. H. C. Dasappa.—

If satisfactory arrangements to collect reliable figures in the cities are not made, what action has the department taken to ensure better arrangements in future at least ?

Director of Health.—

City Municipalities were not paying adequate attention to this matter. We have brought this to their notice and it is understood that they are now taking steps to register the figures accurately.

Mr. H. C. Dasappa.—

Is there no special establishment maintained for the collection of figures in the cities? Why should reliable figures not be collected by them as in the Gold Fields?

Director of Health.—

There is a special establishment maintained for the purpose, but the establishment in the Kolar Gold Fields, I must say, is better and the Child Welfare Centre there is also doing very good work.

Mr. H. C. Dasappa.—

Have the Government given any special encouragement to the Child Welfare Centre? And is one centre enough for all the Gold Fields?

Director of Health.—

The Sanitary Board are giving adequate encouragement to the centre. One centre is of course not adequate but the question of opening more centres is dependent on the finances available.

Mr. H. C. Dasappa.—

How is it that the percentage of deaths in Bangalore City is more than in rural areas?

First Member of Council.—

Government are not aware of any special reasons.

Capt. Y. V. Ayya.—

Are the Government going to take any special action to reduce the percentage of infant mortality in the cities?

First Member of Council.—

Government have it constantly in view.

Mr. J. Mahomed Imam.—

How many labour cases in the villages have been attended to by midwives?

First Member of Council.—

I would invite the member's reference to the administration report of the Health D[illegible]

Mr. J. Mahomed Imam.—

Are not the Government aware that there are not enough midwives in rural areas and that there is need to provide one at least for each hobli?

First Member of Council.—

It is desirable to have even one for each village.

Mr. K. Venkatasamiah.—

Is not the number of deaths abnormal as shown by the figures furnished in the answers?

First Member of Council.—

There is no absolute standard in that respect.

MRS. KAMALAMMA H. DASAPPA and SRIMATI D. SAKAMMA (Special Interest).—

Q.—54. Will the Government be pleased to state :—

(*a*) How many travelling libraries are there in the State now?

(*b*) How many had been opened?

(*c*) Did any such library not work well, and if so, why?

(*d*) Is it not desirable to open such libraries in each taluk?

CHIEF SECRETARY TO GOVERNMENT.—

A.—54. (*a*) None at present.

(*b*) Each taluk had a travelling library prior to the year 1921, when the scheme of travelling libraries was ordered to be held in abeyance.

(*c*) The reports on the working of the scheme, received from the Deputy Commissioners, showed that the scheme was not working satisfactorily.

(*d*) Yes, but it is a question of funds.

Supplementary Questions and Answers.

Srimati D. Sakamma.—

May I know how much money had been spent by Government for the purchase of books in connection with the travelling libraries?